



DWIGHT PELZ

## Preserving Metro Bus Service

When voters passed Initiative 695 in November 1999, they eliminated the motor vehicle excise tax, and a major source of funding for transit systems in Washington. King County Metro lost about a third of its revenues. Unless we can find a permanent source of funding, Metro will be forced to dramatically reduce its service by 18% in June and September of 2000, and another 15% in 2001.

**I believe that restoration of Metro funds and the preservation of Metro Transit is one of the most critical issues to face King County in years.**

The Executive initially announced that the first 6% cut in service would take place in February. However, Mr. Sims decided to postpone these cuts after Governor Locke proposed in his 2000 budget that funds from the state's surplus be earmarked for temporary relief for the state's local transit systems. Still, some routes will be reduced. **Route 34**, which runs from West Seattle to Tukwila, has been eliminated.

Governor Locke's proposal must be approved by the state Legislature. This money, as well as tax revenue collected in 1999, would provide enough funding for Metro to maintain its current service levels through

2000, and the reductions planned for June and September would not be immediately necessary.

This would be only a short-term fix. Without a long-term funding solution, Metro's revenue will drop by approximately \$130 million per year. Bus service would drop by about one-third, which would return the system to service levels provided back in 1984.

The County is now seeking both short-term funds as well as legislative approval for long-term transportation funding, such as a local-option tax. **Metro is one of the nation's finest bus systems, and it serves us well.** Because it is such an asset to our communities, I

**have chosen to serve as the Chair of the Council's Legislative Steering Committee. In this position, I am able to spend much of my time generating pressure on Olympia, as well as personally lobbying King County legislators, to ensure we obtain the funds necessary to preserve Metro.**

For more information on bus route changes, please contact Metro staff at 553-3000, or visit Metro's website at <http://transit.metrokc.gov/>.

# Services and improvements for Boulevard Park and South Park

## A new park in north Boulevard Park?



I have long heard grumbings that Boulevard Park lacks usable open space and parks where kids can play. This year I secured \$20,000 through the King County budget to begin the process of siting a park.

Initial steps include conducting a study to find a suitable site in the north end of the Boulevard Park area, developing a park design, and eventually conducting public comment opportunities. This park will certainly be a vital new resource for families in Boulevard Park, and I am very excited to get this project underway.

## Pedestrian Safety

The need for pedestrian safety within the Boulevard Park neighborhood came into sharp focus when our community was confronted with a number of tragic car accidents along our streets. On many local arterials there is very little room, if any, for pedestrians, and this puts neighborhood children at great peril when walking to and from school.



The following projects are important steps to help ensure our family and friends don't have to run any sort of risk when walking in our neighborhood:

- 1 \$202,000 to construct a curb, gutter and sidewalk along **Des Moines Memorial Drive**. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that I have successfully secured funds for this 4 year project, which will be completed in 2002 at a total cost of \$2,560,000.
- 1 \$293,000 to add sidewalks along both sides of **S. 120<sup>th</sup> Street**. This project will be completed in 2001.

## The South Park Bridge

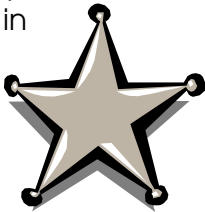
At the request of a number of South Park residents and area business owners, I recently introduced legislation to change the name of the 14<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Bridge to the South Park Bridge. We are hoping that by changing the bridge's name, we can increase South Park's visibility and put it on the map (so to speak!).



The City of Tukwila, which shares the responsibility of maintaining the "South Park" bridge, agreed to the name change and passed its version of the renaming ordinance in early February. Watch for the signs officially proclaiming it the South Park Bridge sometime this spring.

## Crime prevention in our neighborhood

As you well know, keeping officers in the communities they serve is a high priority for the neighborhoods in South Park and in Southeast Seattle. For the third year in a row King County will fund both the South Park and SE Seattle area crime prevention centers. The South Park Crime Prevention Center, located at 309 South Cloverdale, is there to help make you and your community safer - I encourage you to stop by!



## These additional services and improvements for the Boulevard Park and South Park areas were funded in the 2000 County budget :

- 1 \$20,000 for the South Seattle Senior Center Adult Day Care Facility. The programs at this facility provide South Seattle elders with classes in computers, arts, nutrition and physical therapy. For more information on the programs, please contact the Center at 722-0317.
- 1 \$46,000 for operations at the North Highline Senior Center. This Center, located in Burien and run through the Highline Community College, provides various educational, nutritional and exercise programs for seniors throughout the area. For more information on its programs, please call the Center at 244-3686.
- 1 \$1,500 for the Boulevard Park Community Council. This funding will help pay for their meetings, events and mailings. The group meets at 7:00 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, at the Boulevard Park Place Apartments (2805 S. 125<sup>th</sup>, right off Military Road). For more information, please contact Debi Shaug at 246-6279.
- 1 \$94,262 for the purchase of play equipment at Arbor Lake to replace the structures that were burned several years ago. My thanks to Pat McKee and numerous others who brought this project to my attention.
- 1 \$125,000 for acquisition and lease of additional open space up-stream from Point Rediscovery along the South Fork of Hamm Creek. When complete, this project will create an inter-tidal wetland along the Duwamish River, which will provide a critically needed resting/transition/feeding area for outward-bound salmon.